WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method, comprising:

determining whether a speech option is selected at an origin device; and

when the speech option is selected, converting input speech to text and transmitting an instant message comprising the text.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

when speech is not selected at the origin device, receiving input text and transmitting the instant message, wherein the instant message comprises the input text.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

receiving the instant message;

determining whether a speech option is selected at a destination device; and

when the speech option is selected at the destination device, converting the input text to speech.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the instant message;

determining whether a speech option is selected at a destination device; and

when the speech option is selected at the destination device, converting the text to speech.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the speech option at the destination device is independent of the speech option at the origin device.

6. A method, comprising:

receiving an instant message at a destination-client device, wherein the instant message comprises text; and

determining whether a speech option at the destination-client device is selected and if true converting the text to speech.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein when the determining operation is false, displaying the text.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the speech option at the destination-client device is independent of a speech option at an origin-client device, wherein the origin-client device originated the instant message.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the instant message is received across a long-lived connection.

10. A computing device, comprising:

a text-to-speech converter to convert text in a received instant message to speech when a speech option is selected, independent of whether a sender of the instant message performed speech input.

11. The computing device of claim 10, further comprising:

a speech-to-text converter to convert speech to text in an instant message to be transmitted when the speech option is selected.

12. The computing device of claim 9, wherein the received instant message is received across a long-lived connection.

13. The computing device of claim 9, wherein the received instant message is received via a request-reply pair.

14. An instant-messaging system, comprising:

an instant-messaging server;

a controller to determine whether a speech option is selected at an origin-client device and to send an instant message to the instant-messaging server; and

a speech-to-text converter to convert speech to text when the speech option is selected, wherein the instant message comprises the text.

15. The instant-messaging system of claim 14, wherein the instant-messaging server is to receive the instant message on a long-lived connection.

16. The instant-messaging system of claim 14, wherein the instant-messaging server is to send the instant message to a destination-client device.

17. The instant-messaging system of claim 14, wherein the instant-messaging server is to drop the instant message when a destination-client device is not connected.

18. The instant-messaging system of claim 14, further comprising:

a destination controller to determine whether a speech option is selected at a destination-client device; and

a text-to-speech converter to convert text to speech when the speech option at the destination-client device is selected independent of the speech option at an the origin-client device.

19. An instant-messaging system, comprising:

an instant messaging server;

an origin-client device, comprising:

an origin controller to determine whether an origin-speech option is selected at the origin-client device and to send an instant message to the instant-messaging server,

a speech-to-text converter to convert speech to text when the origin-speech option is selected, wherein the instant message comprises the text; and

a destination-client device, comprising:

a destination controller to determine whether a destination-speech option is selected at the destination-client device and to receive the instant message from the instant-messaging server, and

a text-to-speech converter to convert the text to speech when the destination-speech option is selected.

20. The instant-messaging system of claim 19, wherein the origin-speech option is independent of the destination-speech option.

21. A signal-bearing medium comprising instructions, wherein the instructions when read and executed by a processor comprise:

determining whether a speech option is selected at an origin device; and

when the speech option is selected, converting input speech to text and transmitting an instant message to an instant-messaging server, wherein the instant message comprises the text.

22. The signal-bearing medium of claim 21, further comprising:

when speech is not selected at the origin device, receiving input text and transmitting the instant message to the instant-messaging server, wherein the instant message comprises the input text.

23. The signal-bearing medium of claim 21, further comprising:

receiving the instant message from the instant-messaging server;

determining whether a speech option is selected at a destination device; and

when the speech option is selected at the destination device, converting the text to speech.

24. The signal-bearing medium of claim 22, further comprising:

receiving the instant message from the instant-messaging server;

determining whether a speech option is selected at a destination device; and

when the speech option is selected at the destination device, converting the input text to speech.

25. The signal-bearing medium of claim 23, wherein the speech option at the destination device is independent of the speech option at the origin device.

26. A pager, comprising:

a text-to-speech converter to convert text in a received instant message to speech when a speech option is selected, independent of whether a sender of the instant message performed speech input.

27. The pager of claim 26, further comprising:

a speech-to-text converter to convert speech to text in an instant message to be transmitted when the speech option is selected.

28. The pager of claim 26, wherein the received instant message is received across a long-lived connection.

29. The pager device of claim 26, wherein the received instant message is received via a request-reply pair.